

### **Call for freelance field researchers**

**For conducting case studies on 40 cities in Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom**

The CIAS Centre for Interdisciplinary Approaches to Sustainability of the Jena University of Applied Sciences is looking for native speaker freelance field researchers for conducting case studies on urban sustainability in 40 European cities. According to the needs, the field researchers will conduct field research in two to four cities, contributing to the EU-funded project, “Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe” ([www.foreurope.eu](http://www.foreurope.eu)). The candidates should be available for two to four months of work (depending on the number and size of cities to be researched) starting from mid-April until mid-November 2013.

#### **About the mission**

The freelance field researchers will contribute specifically to a study exploring the preconditions for a successful urban transition to sustainable development from a comparative perspective. The study is built around a large-N case study analysis comparing data collected in 40 cities selected for the project in the period from mid-April to November 2013. Following a strict methodology, the researchers will seek to understand and describe the role of the various actors (local government, municipal utilities and civil society) in generating the socio-ecological transition.

In each of the selected cities, about 15 expert interviews will be conducted with local actors (representatives of local government, local community leaders and activists, local entrepreneurs, etc.). Each interview will be conducted in the local language and will last about one hour each.

#### **Responsibilities:**

With the support of the research team at EAH Jena and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (in English) the field researchers will have the responsibility to:

- Participate to a briefing workshop (April 25/26 2013) and a debriefing session (14/15 November 2013)
- Travel to the named cities on a number of occasions, to conduct the research
- Identify and collect relevant documents and conduct a document analysis,
- Identify the relevant actors and arrange (in conjunction with the ‘key holder’) the necessary appointments
- Perform and transcribe expert interviews, and translate them into English afterwards
- Compile additional secondary data as per the requirements of the research and write a concise case study outlining the key findings for each city selected until the end of October 2013

- Complete all aspects of the field research by the date of the de-briefing meeting in November 2013

#### **Motivations and skills requirements**

- Master level degree in Economics, Political Science, Social and Environmental Sciences, Urban Planning and/or any other disciplines, or extensive working experience relevant to the project as described above
- Proven academic and/or personal interest and knowledge in the field of sustainability and its local implications
- Strong will to conduct autonomous field research and face-to-face interviews with key local stakeholders from diverse backgrounds
- Excellent communication and writing skills both in English and in their native language

Previous experience with field research and face-to-face interviews, empirical research and familiarity with sustainability, urban issues, local and regional development, governance of the commons are highly appreciated. Individuals who are able to deploy creativity in solving concrete problems linked to the realities of field research are particularly welcome to apply.

#### **Period of work and submission requirements:**

The field research period runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May until the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2013. In addition, each field researcher will have to attend a two-day briefing workshop at April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Freiburg, Germany and a debriefing session in early November 2013.

Interested candidates are required to send a CV, a statement of motivations (200 words), and names of two academic referees **until March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013** to [enkeleda.kadriu@bw.fh-jena.de](mailto:enkeleda.kadriu@bw.fh-jena.de). Please write “freelance applicant for field research” in the subject of your e-mail. Interviews with short-listed candidates will be conducted in late March and contracts will start **with the briefing workshop in Freiburg**.

#### **Background information about the project**

The project titled “Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe” ([www.foreurope.eu](http://www.foreurope.eu)) is a European research consortium mandated by the European Commission to lay the scientific foundations for a new growth and development strategy for Europe. The consortium brings together top researchers from 33 scientific institutions in 12 European countries and is coordinated by WIFO, the Austrian Institute of Economic Research in Vienna. The project aims to investigate the role of cities and their stakeholders in the process of changing the growth trajectory in the face of financial crisis and climate change towards sustainability.

The research on the role of cities in the European socio-ecological transition will be carried out by EAH Jena - University of Applied Sciences (Germany), FUB - Free University of Bolzano (Italy), and the European Secretariat of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Thomas Sauer.